

News from Rei

and the Romanian New Hope Team

February 2010



Dear Friends,

Time is flying so fast. Another two months are gone! I don't know about you but here there is no time to rest and lots of choices to make. Here is a story that describes perfectly what we are experiencing here:

A young police officer was taking his final exam for the police academy and he read the following question on the exam paper: „You are on patrol in the outer city when an explosion occurs in a gas main in a nearby street. Upon investigation you find that a large hole has been blown in the footpath and there is an overturned van nearby. Inside the van there is a strong smell of alcohol. Both occupants—a man and a woman—are injured. You recognize the woman as the wife of your Chief of Police, who is at present out of the country. A passing motorist stops to offer you assistance, and you realize that he is a man who is wanted for armed robbery. Suddenly a man runs out of a nearby house, shouting that his wife is expecting a baby and that the shock of the explosion has made the birth imminent. Another man is crying for help, having been blown into the adjacent canal by the explosion, and he cannot swim. Describe in a few words what actions you would take.” The young man thought for a moment, picked up his pen and wrote, „I would take off my uniform and mingle with the crowd.”

I, too, was close to doing the same thing during the month of December. There were so many activities and opportunities to share the Gospel that we were overwhelmed. We had to pick some and do them. There is one that I want to tell you about.

Christmas Tree - Cross



On November 15th, I was preaching in my church at our Sunday morning service. That morning we were visited by our vice-mayor and a congressman. After the service the vice-mayor approached me and asked, “Mr. Abrudan, why don't you come and take the downtown stage we have erected to share with the Cluj people about the real meaning of Christmas. We'll give you two hours to put together a program for our citizens?”

Wow! Was that an invitation to publicly share what we believe? Yes! Of course I said yes and, in cooperation with another church in Cluj, we had some time for singing Christian carols (unfortunately in Romania we have lots of bad carols), and a group of



Christian artists put together a happening right there on the stage. For the approximately 500 people in the square, the real story of Christmas was revealed in a totally new perspective: the

Christmas tree turned into a cross!



The message was powerful. A man standing beside me was asking:



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“What are they doing there with the tree? *I don't understand!*” “Wait and *see - try to think,*” I was telling him. All of a sudden this man said out loud, “It is Jesus, it is about Jesus, isn't it?” “Yes!” I shouted, “*It is all about Him.*”

During the program a group of young people from our churches were distributing Bibles and CDs with Christian carols and trying to talk to the people in the square.

As an organizer of the event, I was extremely tense (it was so complicated to work with the officials who were changing the rules every other hour), but overall, the event was a good one... for a first event like that. Next year, if we have the chance to do something similar, we'll do it better.

From the home front

Well, we have good news here to share with you. I'm not sure I have told you about our boys getting involved in the children's ministry in our church. I guess not. They did that at the beginning of October. We thought it was just something of the moment, due to the influence of some of their friends. We thought they'd drop that soon after. Well, they didn't. We'd received some good feedback from some teachers but still we were not convinced they were serious about it... until Christmas time when our children had a Christmas concert in the church. The volunteers (Paul and Marc were there, too) had to sit beside the children. In front of our eyes the scene just moved us: the boys around them were resting their heads on our boys' legs and hugging their legs. We couldn't believe our eyes. Paul and Marc building such meaningful relationships with the children they work with?

Thank you Lord! That is another dream that came true.

And here we are. Again I filled the space of this newsletter without being able to tell you everything that is going on here. Thank you for staying close to us and thank you for all your support, which is keeping us in the ministry! We couldn't do it without you!

Your brother in Christ,

Rei

